

*In Loving Remembrance  
Of*

**MR. RALPH CLEVELAND LEWIS**

**SUNRISE:**  
August 22, 1937

**SUNSET:**  
August 21, 2003



**SERVICES**

Thursday, August 28, 2003  
11:00 A.M.

**Mt. Zion Baptist Church**

1203 Willow Street  
Oakland, California

**OFFICIATING**

Pastor Brian Hunter



## Remembering. . .

**Mr. Ralph Cleveland Lewis** was born August 22, 1937 in Beaumont, Texas to Ms. Hattie Arline. Ralph was raised in Phoenix, Arizona, by a loving Mother and his Uncle Family. Ralph moved to San Francisco with his mother where he completed High School at George Washington. He met and married Shirley Young and out of this union was born four beautiful children. Ralph wore many hats during his life. He worked for the City of San Francisco's Municipal Railway and after 30 years of service he retired at the early age of 53. Ralph also worked as an Insurance Agent and Broker for over 25 years. Ralph was most known for his Gift of playing and teaching Gospel Music.

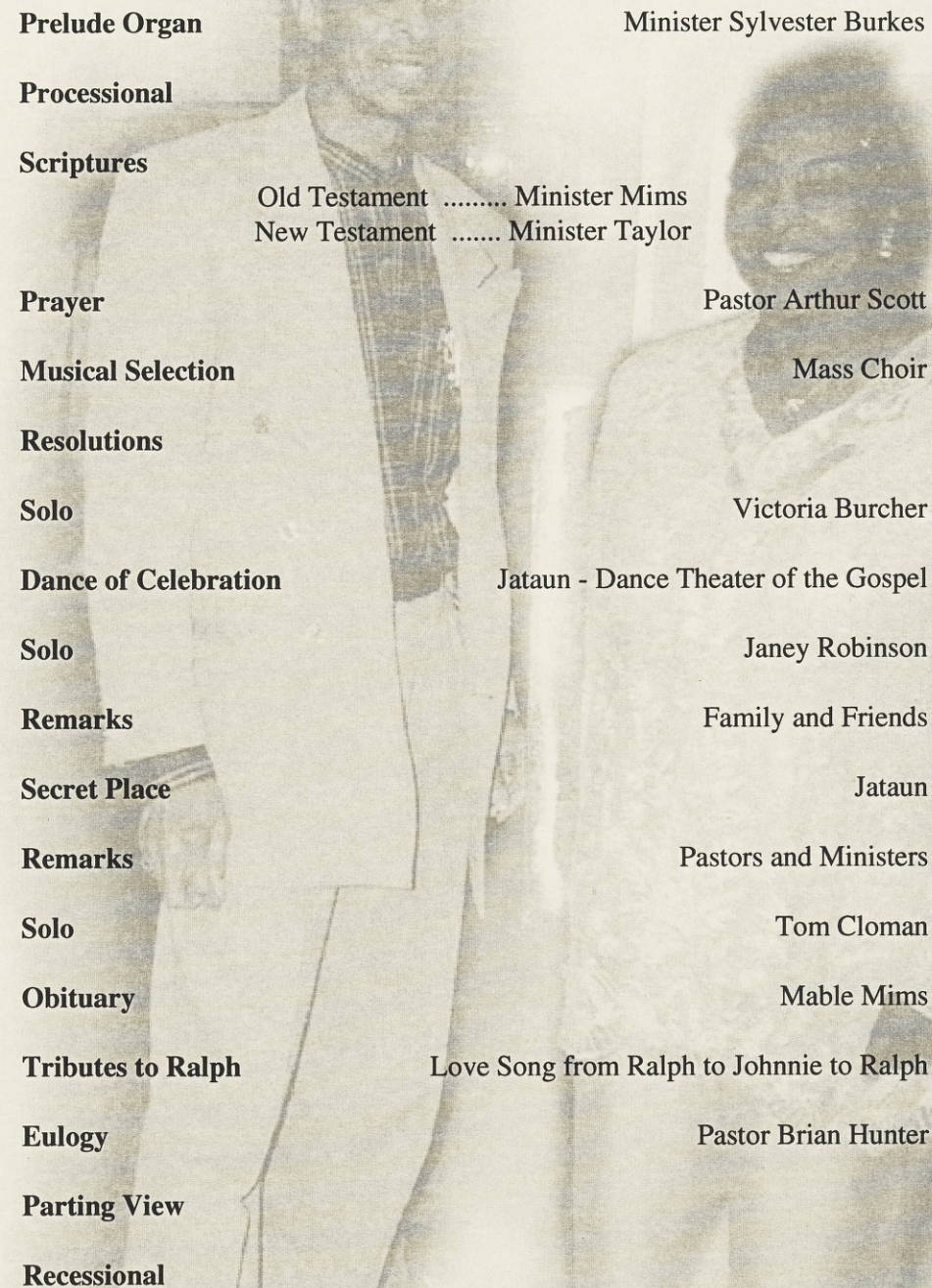
Ralph accepted Christ at an early age. Upon his arrival in San Francisco he joined Greater Gethsemane COGIC and later became the Minister of Music, birthing many singers, musicians and writers. Ralph was also the Minister of Music for North West California State Choir. Ralph founded the Ralph Lewis Choral Ensemble in the 70's. This choir received many honors and the San Francisco Chronicle did an article that reflected on the accomplishments of this great choir. Ralph also was the Minister of Music at Victory Temple COGIC for many years under the Pastorage of Joe Nobles and was the co-producer of the first live recording of the choir. Ralph was also a faithful member and musician of the Northern California Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America under the auspices of Helen Stephens. Ralph was instrumental in training and teaching many choirs throughout the Bay Area. In the days before his health failed he played for Church by the Side of the Road, under Pastor Arthur Scott, Bible fellowship under the Pastorage of Timothy Hawkins and for Mt. Zion Baptist Church under the Pastorage for several years.

Later in life Ralph met and married his best friend Johnnie. Ralph was the perfect example of what a husband should be. He spent time with and lovingly protected his wife. He was supportive and a good provider. Johnnie was called by God to start a program for women called S.I.S.T.E.R. and Ralph gave his full support. He often came to the office and waited while she worked late into the night. He was a father to many of women who respectfully called him Papa Ralph. Ralph and Johnnie had a wonderful life together, traveling, being with friends, laughing and eating at restaurants. Ralph was so secure in his stature as a man that he allowed Johnnie the freedom to be a woman who knows that her man had her under his wing.

Children loved Ralph and he loved them. No child was ever a stranger to Ralph. He gave them unconditional love. Ralph was a person who loved to socialize with people. He would go to the West Oakland Senior Center and to a friend's house on a regular basis to play his favorite game of Dominoes.

The day before Ralph's 66th birthday God called him home. He leaves to celebrate His Transition to a Higher Calling his wife, Johnnie; mother-in-law, Lela Howard; children, Stephanie, Ralph, Sr., Gwen, Dwayne, Lela and Derricke; grandchildren, Alandria, Natasha, Michelle, Lavonne and Jonathan; brother, Willie Robinson; uncle, Lloyd Arline; as well as numerous cousins and close friends who loved him as well.

## Order Of Service



<b>Prelude Organ</b>	Minister Sylvester Burkes
<b>Processional</b>	
<b>Scriptures</b>	Old Testament ..... Minister Mims New Testament ..... Minister Taylor
<b>Prayer</b>	Pastor Arthur Scott
<b>Musical Selection</b>	Mass Choir
<b>Resolutions</b>	
<b>Solo</b>	Victoria Burcher
<b>Dance of Celebration</b>	Jataun - Dance Theater of the Gospel
<b>Solo</b>	Janey Robinson
<b>Remarks</b>	Family and Friends
<b>Secret Place</b>	Jataun
<b>Remarks</b>	Pastors and Ministers
<b>Solo</b>	Tom Cloman
<b>Obituary</b>	Mable Mims
<b>Tributes to Ralph</b>	Love Song from Ralph to Johnnie to Ralph
<b>Eulogy</b>	Pastor Brian Hunter
<b>Parting View</b>	
<b>Recessional</b>	





### INTERMENT

Rolling Hills Memorial Park  
4100 Hilltop Drive  
Richmond, California

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

*Perhaps you made a comforting call or sat quietly in a chair.  
Perhaps you sent a card or dish of food; If so we saw it there.  
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words any friend could say.  
Perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day.  
Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you so much.  
Whatever the part, may God bless you. -The Family*

Services Entrusted To

McNary-Morgan-Engel & Jackson  
Mosswood Chapel  
3630 Telegraph Avenue  
Oakland, California